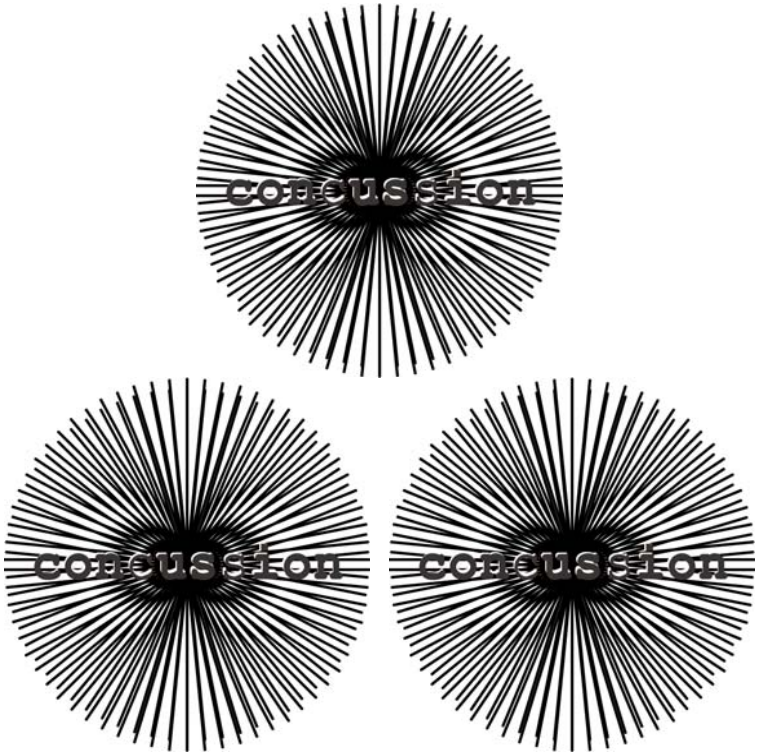
Concussion
14-17 April 2006
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow
(formerly known as Moat House Hotel)



PR3 - November 2005

57th Annual British National Science Fiction Convention

Guests of Honour M. John Harrison, Elizabeth Hand, Justina Robson, Brian Froud and Ian Sorensen

plus Special Guests
Dan Abnett, Marc Gascoigne, Mat Irvine, Dee Parker and Johanna Sinisalo

Concussion

Concussion is the 57th Annual British National Science Fiction Convention.
It will be held on April 14-17 2006 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow.

Contact Details
Postal: 23 Ranelagh Road, Bruce Grove, London N17 6XY, UK
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News Feed: http://www.livejournal.com/community/eastercon2006
Mailing List: http://www.eastercon2006.org/contacts.php

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Membership Rates	to 30 Nov 05	1 Dec 05 and on the door
Attending	£50	£55
Supporting	£25	£27.50
Concessions	£25	£27.50
Junior (12-18)	£15	£15
Child (5-11)	£5	£5
Infant (0-4)	free	free

Thanks to Colin Odell for the Concussion logo artwork.

This Progress Report was published by the Concussion Committee and printed by digitalcopyservices at Anglia Ruskin University.

The convention publications are available in electronic format & large print.

Gearing Up

- a chair's welcome by Farah Mendlesohn

The contract is signed, we've studied the layout of the hotel, membership is rising and we are beginning to feel that we have a convention.

Because of Worldcon the convention committee had a slow start, but as planned we have been back at work since the beginning of September. Taking a look at the site plan has been interesting: we are very keen to see greater integration of some events into the convention and we have an excellent room for the Art Gallery (prospective exhibitors should contact Judi Hodgkin) and for the dealers room (contact me). We very much need volunteers in the technical department, and also to help as gophers and at registration. Volunteers will be paid in groats (currency to be spent within the convention). Contact Noel for details or see the website for the volunteer form.

Simon Bradshaw has begun planning the programme and will be in touch with many of you in the near future. Programme items to be planned cover science, literature, politics, art, movie, tv and book discussions. We aim to match the quality and diversity of programme achieved by Worldcon this year, although arguably with the bonus that you'll be able to see more than ten per cent of it without having to clone yourself! As it is we've wrung the maximum number of rooms out of the space and intend to use the smallest of the spaces for book groups, readings and author chats (known as *kaffeeklatches* in the US). So far over twenty authors have signed up and publishers are beginning to join. See http://www.eastercon2006.org/authors.php for a regularly updated list. James Bacon will be organising Cyberdrome (the theme is *Pirates!*) and there will be more details on the site shortly.

In the last PR we announced our cohort of special day guests. In October we were able to confirm our final guest; Dee Parker, Senior Lecturer in Contour Design at the University of Leicester. Dee has agreed to be one of the judges in the Masquerade, along with our Guest of Honour Brian Froud, another of our special guests, Mat Irvine, and an as yet to be appointed Costumer.

NEWS FLASH: Moat House renamed to Crowne Plaza as of November 2005

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Special Guest – Dee Parker

- Farah Mendlesohn's cups overfloweth

I first heard Dee Parker, Senior Lecturer in Contour Design at the University of Leicester, on Woman's Hour in 2004, talking cheerily about "upthrust" and "separation", "tension" and "architecture", "materials engineering" and "drag". With a vocabulary like that, how could we resist?

Dee Parker is, of course, an expert in what the rest of us call bra and corsetry design. We very much look forward to her talk and hope she will join us in a discussion of the plausibility of some of the more pneumatic visions in the art gallery, and the right way to construct a bra for zero gravity.

Programme

- Simon Bradshaw has a little list

The programme is now taking shape, with the major events (Guest of Honour talks, award ceremony, Masquerade and so on) nailed into place. In between go talks, panels, readings and everything else that makes up an Eastercon programme; we're now working on developing a rich and varied mix of such items to live up to the standard set by Interaction.

Talking of Worldcon, those of you who were there will remember that the programme ran with two ninety-minute slots in the afternoon. Many items worked well in a longer slot, and we'll be building on this; as well as two long slots in the afternoon (2-5pm) we'll run two in the evening (8-11pm). Other items will be an hour, and we'll be starting with at least one item from 9-10am for the early risers - we hear that there are some out there!

Our final ingredient will be the most important: programme participants. We're keen to involve a wide range of attendees, so this is your chance to get involved. If you're interested in taking part, go to the Concussion web page and fill in our participation form, return the form enclosed with this PR, or email or write to the convention via our contact addresses. Please note that we can't guarantee a place on the programme, but we'll certainly look at each and every suggestion and offer to help out.

REDEMPTION '07

23 – 25 February 2007

Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, Leics, UK

The Multimedia Science Fiction Convention

This will be a fannish event concentrating on activities that let people join in rather than just sit in an audience and listen. Events will include workshops, panels, debates, games, masquerade, drinking and so on. For more information, write with SAE to: Lesley McIntee, 26 Kings Meadow View, Wetherby LS22 7FX, UK. All profits to charity.

http://www.smof.com/redemption

Hotel News * Moat House renamed Crowne Plaza*

- room booking information

We have some news on the hotel front: our main hotel, the Moat House, was rebranded in November 2005 as the Glasgow Crowne Plaza. Don't worry - this is not a change of site, and does not affect bookings of function space or bedrooms.

We will be using three hotels for Concourse, namely the Crowne Plaza, City Inn and Campanile. These three hotels are situated very close together (about 400m across a quiet car park) on the Clydeside, adjacent to the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC). There are regular buses and cabs into Glasgow.

The main hotel will be the Crowne Plaza, where we have reserved 200 bedrooms plus all of the function space. The City Inn and Campanile will be used to provide additional bedroom space to ensure that we can accommodate everyone on site.

Our room rates are all for Bed and Breakfast. Please note, they are per room, not per occupant. We are asking people to contact the hotels directly to book rooms.

If you have any questions, or want to find room sharers, contact us at the convention address or hotels@eastercon2006.org. Otherwise, contact the hotel directly to book and make arrangements for any special requirements (cot, disabled access, diet etc). If you are having trouble with hotel booking, in particular with issues like disabled access, please contact us. Concussion is registered with Electrical Eggs and we want to do our best to ensure equal access for all.

Glasgow ~~Moat House~~ Crowne Plaza £65 single; £80 twin/double per room.
Wi-fi in bedrooms and public areas, and coin operated internet access on the Mezzanine. There are restaurants and bars, and a gym with a swimming pool.
There are some rooms adapted for people with wheelchairs/mobility difficulties.
The Crowne Plaza will have some guest rooms available in which smoking is permitted. Smokers are advised to ask for one, because Scotland's new anti-smoking legislation will prevent you from smoking in most other places.

Phone: 0870 443 1693 Address: Congress Road, Glasgow G3 8QT

To get the discounted convention rate, bookings must be via phone or email to the events staff, NOT the web site or front desk. Our contact at reservations is Kerry Menzies; quote code "EAS130405". Phone bookings are available 9am to 5.30pm, or members can email Kerry with queries or booking requests.

Email: systems.Glasgow@moathousehotels.com
Internet: www.moathouse.com

For now, the discount rates are available for at least a day either side of the convention, subject to availability. For bookings made later, only the convention dates may be available at the discount rate.

<u>City Inn Glasgow</u> £63 single; £76 twin/double
The City Inn is a more quiet hotel. It has wi-fi in public areas, an in house restaurant and bar, and six wheelchair adapted rooms.

Phone: 0141 2401002 Post: Finnieston Quay, Glasgow G3 8HN
Internet: www.cityinn.com/glasgow/ Email: glasgow.reservations@cityinn.com
Please quote code “SciFi06” to get the convention rate.

<u>Campanile Hotel</u> £55 single; £61 twin/double
This has dial up connections and a restaurant. It is similar in style to the Quality Inn Walsall (venue for Novacon). There are two wheelchair adapted rooms.

Phone: 0141 287 7700 Post: 10 Tunnel Street, Glasgow G3 8HL
Web: http://www.campanile.com Email: glasgow@campanile-hotels.com
Please quote code “SciFi06” to get the convention rate.

Guests of Honour M. John Harrison, (clockwise from top left) Elizabeth Hand, Justina Robson, Brian Froud and Ian Sorensen

plus Special Guests Marc Gascoigne, Dan Abnett, Mat Irvine, Johanna Sinisalo and Dee Parker (centre)

Concussion at Interaction

- Worldcon roundup

We at Concussion are in the interesting position of using a site which has just held a Worldcon. This has given us a great opportunity to look at how the Moat House coped with an influx of fans, and how best to use the space. At Worldcon the Moat House was used primarily for the Fan programme, and it proved to be a most congenial place; we hope to maintain the relaxed ambience while cramming a load more sf programming into the available space.

We are not using the SECC at Concussion; we are holding all programming in the Moat House. As an 800-1000 person convention we do not need the sort of space the SECC provides. Our logistics staff have been investigating the layout of rooms available in the Moat House and assigning them to programme, gaming, workshops, dealers rooms etc in a way we hope will minimise any noise disturbance between items. We have a cunning plan… in fact, we have several…

The Moat House was delighted with the way Worldcon went. The food and drink was popular (especially the late-night bacon butties!) and they will endeavour to keep a good selection available.

The Fan programme (which was held in the Moat House) arranged for a real ale bar to be set up in the foyer bar; this was a great success, and the beer made several converts among the hotel staff! The con not only drank the real ale bar dry, it drank the *brewery* dry – after several restockings during the weekend they ran out of beer! We are negotiating with them to return, and possibly brew us a special Concussion ale…

Several of our guests attended Interaction – we hope you took the opportunity to get to know them! **Ian Sorensen** staged the latest production of the ‘Reductio Ad Absurdum’ theatre company - *Lucas Back In Anger* - an epic humorous re-imagining of the *Star Wars* hexology. **Elizabeth Hand** was kept busy on panels about the art of reviewing, the British landscape, and slipstreaming genre boundaries, as well as giving a reading and hosting a kaffeeklatsch. **Justina Robson**’s new novel *Living Next-Door to the God of Love* in just published. She appeared on a diverse range of items which explore SF’s human heart. **Dan Abnett** discussed comic writing and production on a number of panels, and **Marc Gascoigne** of Games Workshop’s The Black Library, joined Elizabeth Hand in talking about tie in novels. **Johanna Sinisalo** attended; her award-winning novel *Not Before Sundown* (released in the US as *Troll: A Love Story*) was be discussed by the James Tiptree Jr. Book Group, and the Finnish fans held some excellent parties!

If you have any comments or suggestions on how we could improve Concussion based on your experience at Worldcon, we would be happy to hear from you.

Whither Eastercon?

-The Bid Session

One of the most important things you can do to help the Eastercon continue is to run one. Each Eastercon holds a Bidding Session, where groups of people who wish to run the Eastercon two years hence put forward their plans to a vote by members. However, no bids came forward at Eastercon 2005. This was largely due to fans putting their time and energy into the Glasgow Worldcon; we hope you have all been revitalised and filled with drive to run a most excellent Eastercon!

Concussion will be holding a dual Bidding Session - for Eastercon 2007 and Eastercon 2008. We would be delighted to hear from any groups that plan to bid for either of these years – please get in touch with us at the convention address.

Eastercon 2007: Free Plug for bids!
Convoy proposes that the 2007 Eastercon be held at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.

The committee began to form in the closing hours of Paragon II, when various people including Tim Kirk were lamenting the lack of bids for the 2007 Eastercon. Coincidentally, the Adelphi had actively approached one of these fans, asking to host an Eastercon again. Some very successful conventions have been held at the Adelphi, which has function and gathering space ideally suited to an Eastercon, so it looks like we've got us a Convoy.
Convoy will make its formal bid at Concussion. http://convoy.org.uk/

Newsflash: Eastercon 2008 bid http://www.orbital2008.org/

Getting Involved

-Ask not what Eastercon can do for you, but what you can do for Eastercon

Eastercons have a lot of activities, and are run at every level by volunteers. To coordinate these efforts we have enclosed a Programme and Volunteer Questionnaire with this Progress Report, and would be grateful if you could complete and return it. Please note if you would like us to contact you with more information about exhibiting in the Art show or Dealers Room.

If you are new to conventions, volunteering can be a good way to make friends, or to try an activity new to you. Ever wanted to be a roving reporter for a daily con newsletter? Learn to set up microphones and lights? Help in the Green Room, where programme participants meet and prepare for their panels? The opportunities are varied, and can be very rewarding! Volunteers are recompensed with “groats” – Gopher Reward Tokens – which can be exchanged for goods and services throughout the con. “Gopher” is the umbrella term for volunteer con helpers – so named because they “go for” this, and “go for” that…

The Membership List

- New members since Easter 2005

The following is a list of people who have joined between Easter and October 2005 – including during the Glasgow Worldcon, helped to swell our membership beyond 500 people. Welcome! If you think you should be on this list but cannot see your name, please contact the committee.

The names in the listing are badge names, but ordered alphabetically by surname for the most part. This is to help those of our members who have badge names that are not unique to find themselves in this list – it should be a lot easier than sorting people alphabetically by “Steve”. Please let us know if any corrections should be made to your badge name.

The three-digit number is your membership number, and the letter code denotes what type of membership you have.

A: Attending – S: Supporting – C: Concessionary – O: Other
J: Junior (12-18) – K: Child (5-11) – I: Infant (0-4)

343 C Russell Aitken
502 I Elizabeth Atkin-Wright
501 A Katharine Atkin-Wright
500 A Toby Atkin-Wright
512 A Sandy Auden
335 A James Bacon
405 A Chris Baker
471 A Henry Balen
499 A Jennie Barnsley
473 A Andrew Barton
474 A Kate Soley Barton
392 A Zara Baxter
497 A Roy Bayfield
416 A Graham Bell
419 A Raj
455 A Stefanie Bierwerth
429 A Kent Bloom
332 A Simon Bostock
352 A Robbie Bourget
408 A Sean Brady
433 A Michael Braithwaite
378 A Chaz Brenchley
338 A Paul Campbell
421 A Bridet Chee
467 A Dale
435 A Christine
436 A Michael Davidson
340 A Huw Davies
426 A Malcolm Davies
456 A Simon Dearn
466 A Alligator Descartes
443 A Gillian Dickson
445 K Ketary Dickson
444 J Kethry Dickson
447 A ElsieWK Donald
367 A Allison Ewing
368 K Calum Ewing-Hepburn
369 K Fergus Ewing-Hepburn
483 A Nuala
396 I Kieran Fee
395 I Logan Fee
509 A Alison Freebairn
409 A Pam Fremon
495 C Karen Furlong
494 A Nigel Furlong
493 A Sabine Furlong
359 S Mike Gallagher
511 A Elizabeth Gatland
360 A Gary Gibson
383 C Lorraine Govan
446 A Morag
406 C Izzy Hanson
351 A John Harold
515 A Peter Harrow
431 A Susie Haynes
448 A Martin
366 A Alasdair Hepburn
381 J Leah Heywood
382 J Matthew Heywood
380 A Vincent Heywood
379 A Wendrie Heywood
370 A Irma HirsJarvi
488 A Alex Holden

407 A Martin Holmes
413 A FOFP
506 A Nick Honeywell
342 A Andrew Hook
375 A Graham J Horsman
480 A Talmyre
504 A Ben Hourahine
478 A Aandi Inston
417 A Judith Jackson
418 J Lynn Jackson
491 A Rhodri James
341 A John Jarrold
470 C Ila Khan
468 A Naveed
507 A Jane
354 A Matthias Kunkel
441 A Karin Lagesen
454 A Peter Lavery
385 A Ruth Leibig
492 A Daniel Livingstone
487 A Mike Llewellyn
450 A Marisa
482 J Johanna Loock
481 A Katharina Loock
451 A Karin Lundwall
439 A Helen MacNeil
438 A Justin MacNeil
371 A Ann Marjory Mair
514 A Chris Malme
373 A Eckh. D Marwitz
337 S Sue Mason
386 A Angus McAlister
390 A David McCusker
460 A Mary Frances
403 C David McKenzie
402 A Jobob
394 A Kksryllyan
484 A Emily McLeay
423 K Kathryn Meenan
422 K Kieran Meenan
420 A Mark Meenan
372 A Geneva Melzack
410 J Chloe
411 A Sara
349 A Ray Miller
432 A Steve Milligan
510 S Cati Monti
428 A Mary Morman
348 A Carol Morton
347 A Tony Morton
404 C Donald Munao
339 A John Murnin
363 A Colin Murray
477 A Sal Nicholson
387 C Brian Nisbet
401 A Dave O'Neil
490 A Paul Paolini
362 A Arwel Parry
399 A David Peak
400 A Susan Peak
398 S Captain Lucy
388 A Last Best Hope
412 A Ceri Pritchard
356 A Aletia Ray
357 A Ariane
355 A Bill
358 A Tiny II
442 A Mr. Evil
516 A Mark Robson
485 A Ingo Rohlfs
344 A Howard Rosenblum
345 A June Rosenblum
346 K Michelle Rosenblum
453 A Yvonne Rowse
397 A Simon Russell
350 A Geoff Ryman
508 A Ian Sales
469 A Lesley Scott
472 A Renee Sieber
437 A Howard Singerman
434 A Ken Slater
364 A Graham Sleight
479 A Carolyn Sleith
452 A Smitty
440 A DES
334 A Christine Sneddon
333 C Dr. Squi
425 A Kate Solomon
384 A Ian Stockdale
503 S Elin B. Stokstad
430 A James Strong
374 C LOR
424 A Jernaugh Morat Gurgeh
496 A Emma Taylor
513 A Martin Taylor
462 A Alison Tomkinson
465 I Debora Tomkinson
461 A Neil Tomkinson
463 J Root
464 K Stephanie Tomkinson
361 A Lisa Tuttle
336 S Simone Van Zyl
459 A Nico Veenkamp
505 A Sarah Vernon
449 A Nick
427 A Lucy
486 A Freda Warrington
475 A Robert Watt
457 A Hitch
414 A Colin Wightman
415 A Sarah Wightman
365 A Jennifer Wilkinson
458 A Peter Wilkinson
391 A Matthew Woodcraft
377 A Shana Worthen
393 C Anna Linnea Zettervall
353 A Matthins Zimmermann

Concussion Sudoku

- Bridget's Brain Bruiser

There are nine different characters used in this Sudoku puzzle. To solve it, simply place letters in the empty cells so that each row, column and 3x3 block contains all the different letters. (This means no letter can appear twice in any row, column or 3x3 block.) "E" and "e" are two different letters. Good luck!

			n			o	a	r
				a	c		e	t
	o			c			E	
		s	t			c		
		t				r		a
	c			n	t			s
	t	e	s					
	E	n			a	e		

Notes